## **Minutes: Early ACCESS Executive Committee**

#### **Meeting purpose**

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- filter information and prepare for the Council
- set framework and agenda for Council
- identify and make recommendations for the appropriate utilization of state resources
- consider action on the recommendations of the Council
- set priorities for development of the Early ACCESS system
- implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement
- transact all regular business of the Council between meetings

Date, time, and place

Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Time: 2:00-4:30pm

Place: Jesse Parker Building, Starkweather Conference Room

**Attendees** 

Present: Jane Borst, Kelly Hancock, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Carrie

Sodders, Debra Waldron, Stacey Kramer, and Mary Stevens

Staff: Julie Curry, Marion Kresse, Rae Miller, Angi Walker, Meghan Wolfe

and Jim Donoghue

Excused: Jeff Anderson, Gina Green

**Guest:** Janet Gartin

Approval of previous minutes

Kelly Hancock

Ouorum was established.

*Action:* Motion by Debra Waldron and second by LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl to approve minutes from December 2, 2009. The motion passed.

Medicaid Work Group 2:05-2:15 Jim Donoghue provided information regarding an upcoming merger for two AEAs. July 1, 2010, AEA 13 and AEA 14 will merge to become Green Hills AEA; This will require a Good Standing approval of the new AEA.

There are two important changes shared with the committee; due to ARRA stimulus dollars and a recalculation of the unemployment rate, there was an increase in the amount of federal share that providers keep. The rate is over 70% due to these measures. The AEAs for Part B services have up until now only kept 25% of the Federal Medicaid share. The State of Iowa has agreed to allow AEAs to keep 100% of their Federal Medicaid share. This should provide AEAs and incentive to seek additional Medicaid funding.

### Minutes: Early ACCESS Executive Committee, Continued

Life Skills Progression Tool 2:15 – 3:10 Janet Gartin, Iowa Department of Management in the Office of Empowerment.

Ms. Gartin described current efforts to improve data collection regarding family outcomes, and provided a handout on the Modified Life Skills Progression Instrument as well as data from the first year of usage. This tool was developed because there was a need for a tool that would produce reliable data, and be user friendly. This tool is for those who have been enrolled in a program for at least 6 months in order to be effective.

There are 43 scales, and each scale is individual and can stand alone. For this first year, 8 of the scales were chosen; they correspond with 5 selected outcomes (see handout). The Family Support Leadership Group has a goal to produce a report that would encompass Family Support across the state, instead of just for Empowerment. Hopefully this tool will make that data available. The State of Iowa currently has 3 certified Life Skills Progression Instructors, one in each area of the state. To implement this, the cost to the agency is \$25 to purchase the book. This is the cost per organization.

Preliminary data indicates that Empowerment support programs are reaching a larger ethnic minority than what is reflected in the larger population of Iowa. The goal is for this tool to take a better look at the family as a whole as opposed to only looking at the child's needs. Janet had available for review, the instructional book and the 43 scales. The title of the book is: Life Skills Progression LSP "An Outcome and Intervention Planning Instrument for Use with Families at Risk" Linda Wollesen and Karen Peifer.

Julie Curry

Informal system concerns report 3:10-3:20

Julie shared that there were no informal concerns in the last quarter. More information was given regarding a prior concern regarding who can consent for service on behalf of children in foster care. An attorney from the Department of Education has been meeting with the DE representative from the Attorney General's office. A number of issues were raised, which will need to be addressed once legal guidance is received from the Attorney General's office.

If needed, state staff will revise the current procedures manual regarding obtaining consents for evaluations and services for children in foster care.

Memorandum of Agreement 3:20-3:35

#### LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl

LauraBelle shared that the 5-year Action Plan; this has been finalized. The six sections of the Action Plan are aligned with the MOA. This plan addresses 4 of the 5 years for the Action Plan that remain under the current MOA. A plan was developed for the Early ACCESS Council to review the plan, provide input, and identify needed resources. The groups will report-out at the Council Meeting. It was suggested to add updates on the Action Plan as a standing agenda item.

Continued on next page

# Minutes: Early ACCESS Executive Committee, Continued

FY 2011 State Application and Budget 3:35-3:45 One of the Council's federally mandated responsibilities is to advise and assist the Lead Agency regarding the state application. Much of the advice and assistance that influences the contents of the application happens through the year during Council and committee meetings. The Executive Committee provided informal comments to the Leady Agency as they were preparing the application and budget. DE will post this application on the website, and there will be a 60 day public comment period. After the review period the recommendations will be brought to Signatory Agencies or Executive Committee for review.

Review agenda for March 5<sup>th</sup> ICEA meeting 3:45-4:00 The table below indicates the topic and discussion leader for the March 5, 2010 ICEA meeting.

Topic	Discussion Leader
Family Story, Court Teams for Change	Edwin Daye
Lead Agency Updates	LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl
Executive Committee update -	Kelly Hancock
Medicaid Workgroup	Jim Donoghue
Legislative Update	Senator Daryl Beall
APR Overview	Julie Curry
MOA Strategic Plan Activity	LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl
ICEA Committee Reports	Chairs of Committees
Sharing/Adjournment	Kelly Hancock

Plan April 7<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting 4:00-4:10 The table below indicates the topic and discussion leader for the April 7, 2010, ICEA Executive Committee meeting.

Topic	Discussion Leader
Legislative update	Signatory Agencies
DHS reorganization	Jeff Anderson
ICEA membership update	Gina Green
Lead Agency Update	LauraBelle Sherman Proehl